

[Elizabeth Kildow]

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FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Harold J. Moss ADDRESS 6934 Francis St. 1002 G St. Lincoln Nebr.

DATE Oct. 24, 1938 SUBJECT German-Russian Folklore

1. Name and address of informant. Elizabeth Kidlow, 935 New Hampshire St. Lincoln, Nebr.

2. Date and time of interview. Oct. 18- 3 to 4 p.m. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

3. Place of interview. Home of informant.

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.

Rev. Brust 12th and Charleston St. Lincoln, Nebr.

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. Henry Lickei — 1002 G. St. Lincoln, Nebr.

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Average living room, well furnished, American type dwelling, situated in northwest part of Lincoln, Nebraska. Four generations of this family live in this home, Mrs. Kildow, Son, daughter and husband and their son. C. 15 Neb.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

Library of Congress

NAME OF WORKER Harold J. Moss Henry Lickel ADDRESS 6934 Francis St. Lincoln
1002 G St.

DATE Oct. 24, 1938 SUBJECT German-Russian Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Elizabeth Kildow 935 New Hampshire St.
Lincoln.

1. Ancestry. German
2. Place and date of birth. Norgia, Russia. Oct. 14, 1847.
3. Family. Husband, dead, one son at home.
4. Place lived in, with dates. Norgia Russia 1847 to 1902. Lincoln, Nebr. 1902 to date.
5. Education, with dates. Church school, 1854 to 1863.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with date. Home work, Farming, weaving, 1863 to 1902. Home work, gardening, 1902 to date.
7. Special skills and interests. Weaving, housework, gardening.
8. Community and religious activities. Helping neighbors during sickness, childbirth etc. Reformed Lutheran church.
9. Description of informant. Average German type of short stature. broad features, somewhate dulled by age.
10. Other points gained in interview. Not particularly alert but goes visiting nearly every day despite of age. seems in good health but complains some. Does not speak much English and is thoroughly Americanized.

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FORM C

Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Harold J. Moss Henry Lickei ADDRESS 6934 Francis St. Lincoln Neb. 1002 G St.

DATE Oct 24, 1938 SUBJECT German-Russian Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Elizabeth Kildow, 935 New Hampshire, Lincoln Neb.

We lived in a German settlement, in Norgia, Russia and all the German people kept to themselves. If a woman or man went around with other races there, they were talked about and not honored very highly. It was all right to work for others but never to mix socially.

A good many of these people had fixed beliefs about ghosts and witches and devils but that is dying out although some still brought these ideas to America. Sometime ago when the Ku Klux Klan were holding meetings here and were dressed in white robes and caps, some of the people thought they were ghosts. In Russia, everybody kept goats and they were often pets.

That is why some to this day will declare that a witch, in the form of a goat would often appear at church or funerals.

There was a big dance day in October every year and the people would get together and celebrate.

Library of Congress

The sponsors of the bride and groom went around and invited people to the wedding. They had a list of those to be invited and would call at their house and rap on the door with a cane.

After the wedding they would hold a money dance, which lasted for two or three days. The bride often got quite a lot of money this way.

Sometimes, we hear of those dances here yet but not so much.

I used to work for a rich man in Russia. He paid me, what would be here, about 15¢ a day.

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The government kept people down there and most of them were glad to get passports and get out if they could. The boys had to go into the army at the age of 21 and serve 3 years and 8 months.

It was a hard life and very miserable. The native Russian had a hard time to get away but many of the German Russians could get out. There is myself, my son, my granddaughter and great grandson, living here in this house. We like it better in the United States.